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Editorial: Be a part of debate

Next month at the Inventrek Technology Park on Firmin Street, the Kokomo Tribune will partner with the Kokomo Perspective, League of Women Voters and Greater Kokomo Chamber of Commerce to host a pair of debates between candidates for local office.

Oct. 15's debate will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature candidates for Howard County Council (Dick Miller and Crista Tharp), Circuit Court judge (Lynn Murray and Richard Russell) and Howard County clerk (Kim Wilson and Connie Brown).

And Oct. 22, candidates for Howard County commissioner (Paul Wyman, Mike Barger and Leonard Baxter) and state representative (Mike Karickhoff and Chuck Sosbe) will square off starting at 6:30 p.m.

In our experience with these debates during previous years, the vast majority of the audience is generally made up of party loyalists. While they have their own reasons for being intensely interested in these races, they aren't showing up to be enlightened or swayed by the arguments being presented. Their involvement has more in common with a sports fans showing up and visibly supporting their team. While we welcome everyone

to these debates, we hope more undecided voters show up with the intention of being informed, not just to root for their side.

But we don't just want you to attend, potential voter. We've also set up a special section on our website where you can submit questions for the candidates who will be participating in each debate. We hope this will allow for a wider variety of concerns to be addressed during these events, and help cut through the well-rehearsed, boilerplate answers. To submit your questions for the debate, please visit:

www.kokomotribune.com/site/forms/Debate_Questions and be sure to submit your query for the specific race in question.

Local elections may be the most important and impactful of all, and our form of government only works when the electorate is engaged and curious. If you're unsure of whom to vote for this November, do yourself and everyone else a favor and submit your concerns and attend the debates.